

Message Text

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17

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CCO-00 SAM-01 SAJ-01 NIC-01

USSS-00 SAB-01 ACDA-10 /063 W
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FM USDEL ASWAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0212

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USINFO WASHDC

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

UNCLAS USDEL ASWAN 0260

SECTO 429

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: REMARKS OF EGYPTIAN PRESS SPOKESMAN BASHIR FOLLOWING
ASWAN MEETING BETWEEN SECRETARY KISSINGER AND PRESIDENT SADAT,
MARCH 20, 1975.

DEPARTMENT PASS NSCE FOR GENERAL SCOWCROFT AND NESSEN

REF: STATE 24911

1. SUBJECT REMARKS ARE FORWARDED FOR DEPARTMENT'S INFORMATION: QUOTE

2. AMBASSADOR BASHIR: THE MEETING STARTED AT 9:20 (P.M)
AND ENDED AT 12:00 (MIDNIGHT). THE TWO SIDES, PRESIDENT SADAT,
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(FONMIN) FAHMY AND (WAR MINISTER) GAMASY ON THE EGYPTIAN

SIDE; SECRETARY KISSINGER, AMBASSADOR EILTS AND (UNDERSECRETARY) SISCO ON THE AMERICAN SIDE. THEY HAD A WORKING DINNER. THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY MET ALONE FOR HALF AN HOUR, DR. KISSINGER BROUGHT CERTAIN PROPOSAL WITH HIM. THESE PROPOSALS WERE STUDIED AND THE EGYPTIAN ANSWER WAS GIVEN TO DR. KISSINGER. WE STILL HAVE MANY DIFFICULTIES TO TACKLE. DR. KISSINGER WILL BE LEAVING TOMORROW MORNING FOR ISRAEL AND HE MIGHT BE RETURNING EITHER ON SATURDAY OR SUNDAY.

3. QUESTION: WHAT TIME IS HE LEAVING?

4. ANSWER: AMB. BASHIR: TOMORROW MORNING ABOUT 9:30 (A.M); I THINK AMBASSADOR ANDERSON IS TRYING TO GET YOU THE EXACT TIME.

5. QUESTION: WHEN YOU SAID THAT MANY DIFFICULTIES REMAIN, DOES THAT SUGGEST THEY STILL HAVE NOT ACHIEVED A BREAKTHROUGH?

6. ANSWER: AMB. BASHIR: WE HAVE GIVEN OUR COUNTER IDEAS AND OUR REACTION TO THE ISRAELI PROPOSALS, AND THERE REMAIN MANY DIFFICULTIES TO BE TACKLED.

7. QUESTION: ARE THERE FEWER DIFFICULTIES THAN THERE WERE THE OTHER DAY?

8. ANSWER: AMB. BASHIR: THERE ARE NEW POSITIONS, NEW IDEAS, AND IN THE LIGHT OF THE NEW IDEAS THERE WAS AN EGYPTIAN COUNTER RESPONSE. BUT THERE REMAIN MANY DIFFICULTIES STILL. I CAN NOT GO INTO THE SUBJECT MATTER OF THESE DIFFICULTIES.

9. QUESTION: I DID NOT ASK YOU TO. THE QUESTION WAS, ARE THERE AS MANY DIFFICULTIES AS THERE WERE BEFORE THESE NEW PROPOSALS WERE BROUGHT HERE?

10. ANSWER: AMB. BASHIR: I DID NOT COUNT THE DIFFICULTIES, BUT THERE STILL ARE MANY DIFFICULTIES.

11. QUESTION: WOULD YOU SAY AMBASSADOR, THAT THE TALKS ARE MAKING PROGRESS, OR IS THERE DANGER THAT THEY WILL BREAK DOWN?
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12. ANSWER: AMB. BASHIR: WELL, NO, IT HAS NOT REACHED THAT, THERE ARE DIFFICULTIES THAT NEED TO BE TACKLED.

13. QUESTION: CAN YOU SAY IF THERE WAS SOME SIGNIFICANT INVOLVEMENT OF THE STATEMENT THAT WAS MADE HERE LAST NIGHT CONCERNING EGYPT'S LEGAL POSITION ON NON-BELLIGERENCY? HAS THIS MADE A SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN THE POSITION?

14. ANSWER: AMB. BASHIR: I CANNOT GET INTO THE SUBJECT MATTER OF THE TALKS, BUT THIS PARTICULAR STATEMENT OUGHT TO HAVE CLARIFIED TO EVERYBODY OUR LEGAL POSITION.

15. QUESTION: MR. TAHSIN, YOU SAID NEW POSITIONS AND IDEAS, DOES THAT SUBSTANTIALY CHANGE THE BASIS OF THE AGREEMENT WE KNOW YOU ARE WORKING ON?

16. ANSWER: AMB. BASHIR: NO, FUNDAMENTALS AND BASICS HAVE NOT CHANGED, BUT THERE ARE PROPOSALS AND OUR REACTION TO THEM.

17. IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING BASHIR REMARKS, SPOKESMAN ANDERSON CONFIRMED TO PRESS LENGTH OF MEETING, PARTICIPANTS, 9:30 AM DEPARTURE FOR ISRAEL ON MARCH 21 AND FACT THAT SECRETARY WILL BE BRINGING FURTHER EGYPTIAN IDEAS TO GOI. UNQUOTE
KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ASWAN00260
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750099-0027
From: ASWAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750329/aaaaazys.tel
Line Count: 132
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 24911
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: hartledg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 JUN 2003 by chichels>; APPROVED <26 FEB 2004 by hartledg>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REMARKS OF EGYPTIAN PRESS SPOKESMAN BASHIR FOLLOWING ASWAN MEETING BETWEEN SECRETARY KISSINGER AND PRESIDENT SADAT
TAGS: OVIP, (KISSINGER, HENRY A)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006